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Letter dated 18 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba concerning the fact that on 11 January 2007, the Government of the United States, which for over 18 months has been protecting the international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, indicted him only on charges of naturalization fraud and making false statements in a naturalization proceeding.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba hopes that this indictment of the terrorist Posada Carriles for minor immigration offences will not be used as a smokescreen to allow him to go unpunished for the serious crime of terrorism, or as a pretext for continuing to ignore the request for his extradition submitted on 15 June 2005 by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for his part in the bombing of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft, to which no answer has yet been received.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 100, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Diaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba

15 January 2007

The international press has reported that on 11 January 2007 the Government of the United States of America, which for over 18 months has been protecting the international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, was forced to indict him on charges of naturalization fraud and making false statements in a naturalization proceeding.

The United States Government was forced to admit that our Commander-in-Chief was correct when, in April 2005, while commenting on information published in the Mexican newspapers *Que Quintana Roo se Entere* and *Por Esto*, he repeatedly asserted that for nearly a month Posada Carriles had resided, with complete impunity, in United States territory, to which he had travelled on the vessel *Santrina* after having been picked up in Isla Mujeres by Santiago Álvarez Fernández-Magriña and other terrorists.

When the United States Government was forced to arrest him on 17 May 2005, after having allowed him to reside illegally in United States territory for two months, the terrorist wove a web of lies to the effect that he had entered the United States over land via the Mexican city of Matamoros, that he had not been in Cancún or Isla Mujeres, that while travelling through Mexico he had never seen the vessel *Santrina*, and that he had never seen Santiago Álvarez or any of the other terrorists who, as revealed by our Commander-in-Chief, accompanied him on his journey from Mexico to the United States.

In the indictment of 11 January 2007, the United States Government alleges that Posada was guilty of fraud and lying, since, "in fact, he entered the United States ... by sea aboard the motor vessel 'Santrina' ... travelled to Cancun and Isla Mujeres ... boarded that vessel in Mexico ... and travelled thereon to the United States" and Santiago Álvarez, Osvaldo Mitat, Rubén López Castro and José Pujol "were with him aboard the motor vessel 'Santrina' during his passage aboard that motor vessel from Mexico to the United States".

The United States Government often forgets that the truth has always been a key weapon of the Cuban Revolution. Now, almost two years later, it has had no choice but to admit this.

The Administration of Mexico's President Vicente Fox, in response to Cuba's request that it conduct an in-depth investigation of Posada Carriles's passage through that country, officially informed our Government on 25 May 2005 that it had no record of the terrorist's entry into Mexican territory. It also indicated that the vessel *Santrina* had arrived in Isla Mujeres on 14 March 2005 and that the vessel, after refuelling, had left that locality with the same crew members with whom it had arrived; Luis Posada Carriles, it said, was not among them.

In its 11 January indictment the United States Government makes no mention of terrorism. That Government has full knowledge and evidence of the countless

acts of terrorism committed by Posada Carriles, including the downing of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft in 1976 and acts of terrorism perpetrated against Cuban hotels in 1997, one of which took the life of Fabio Di Celmo, a young Italian tourist.

For the United States Government, the only course of action consistent with the international treaties on terrorism to which it is a party and with the provisions of its own laws would have been to acknowledge from the outset that Luis Posada Carriles is a terrorist and to indict him on charges of terrorism. That would have avoided the lengthy immigration proceedings in El Paso, whose only objective was to protect him in order to prevent the disclosure of the many secrets he knows with regard to the imperial Power's covert operations, illegal acts and links with the anti-Cuban mafia, especially during the time when the father of the current President of the United States was Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hopes that this indictment of the terrorist Posada Carriles for minor immigration offences will not be used as a smokescreen to allow him to go unpunished for the serious crime of terrorism, or as a pretext for continuing to ignore the request for his extradition submitted on 15 June 2005 by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for his part in the bombing of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft, to which no answer has yet been received.

The next test for the Administration of President Bush will come on 1 February, when it will have to respond to Judge Philip Martinez's order that it justify the continued detention of Posada Carriles, in accordance with section 412 of the USA PATRIOT Act; to that end, it will have to acknowledge that his release "will threaten the national security of the United States or the safety of the community or any person". The moment of truth has arrived. The victims' relatives are demanding justice. The Cuban people share their grief and fully support them. Now we shall see what this President and self-appointed "world leader of the war on terror" will do.